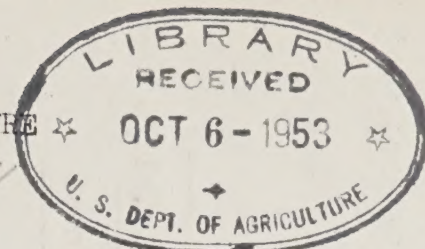


2 UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
U.S. BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS  
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SPECIAL POULT PRODUCTION REPORT

Turkey poult production for the 1953 season to May 1 was 19 percent below last season, the Bureau of Agricultural Economics reported today in announcing the results of the special May 1 turkey hatchery survey in 14 important States. Hatcheries reported that they had produced 16 percent less heavy breed and 28 percent less light breed poult to May 1 than in the corresponding period last year.

The May 1 survey revealed that poult production during the week ended April 25 was also below the corresponding week last year, with heavy breeds down 13 percent, light breeds down 10 percent and the total down 12 percent.

Eggs in incubators on May 1 were 11 percent less than on May 1 last year. The number of eggs set for heavy breed poult was 11 percent less than a year earlier, and eggs set for light breeds, 13 percent less.

The special May 1 survey was made in the following important States in poult production: Pennsylvania, Ohio, Michigan, Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, Nebraska, Virginia, South Carolina, Kentucky, Texas, Washington, Oregon and California. These States have more than two-thirds of the turkey hatchery capacity in the United States. The May 1 survey was made to obtain indications of changes taking place in the 14 States as a whole. State data are shown separately for those States where returns were large enough to give what are considered to be reasonably reliable indications. Turkey hatcheries cooperating in the May 1 survey had more than 45 percent of the United States turkey hatchery capacity and had produced about 20 million poult to May 1 this year.

Reports of turkey hatchery operations up to May 1 indicate that turkey production is being curtailed more drastically than turkey growers indicated in January. At that time growers planned to reduce production by 8 percent, with a cut of 3 percent in heavy breeds and 23 percent in light breeds.

Total production so far this season was down in all States. Production of heavy breeds was universally down, with decreases ranging from 9 percent in Washington to 50 percent in Virginia. The changes in production of light breeds showed a wide variation ranging from a 50 percent increase in Michigan to a 72 percent drop in Nebraska. Virginia and California, the leading States in production of light breeds, showed a drop of 36 percent and 61 percent respectively in light breeds.

Poult production for the week ended April 25, as compared with a year earlier, also showed marked variations between States. Decreases in production of heavy breeds were recorded in all but two States, Ohio and Washington. Several States showed increases during the week in production of light breeds, notably South Carolina, Minnesota and Oregon.

Except for Washington, all States show decreases in the number of eggs in incubators on May 1 as compared with a year ago. Virginia shows 25 percent less, with a decrease of over 30 percent in heavy breeds and 19 percent in light breeds. South Carolina shows a decrease of 22 percent, with both light and heavy breeds sharing about equally in the reduction of eggs in incubators May 1 compared with a year earlier.

(Over)

POULT PRODUCTION TO MAY 1 AND FOR WEEK ENDED APRIL 25, AND EGGS IN INCUBATORS, MAY 1

Number in 1953 as a percentage of 1952.

State	: Poults hatched to May 1, 1953				: Poults hatched wk. ended Apr. 25, 1953				: Eggs in Incubators, May 1, 1953			
	: Heavy	: Light	: Total	: Heavy	: Light	: Total	: Heavy	: Light	: Heavy	: Light	: Total	: Total
	: Breeds	: Breeds		: Breeds	: Breeds		: Breeds	: Breeds	: Breeds	: Breeds		
	P e r c e n t											
Pennsylvania	78	79	78	75	80	76	81	75	80	75	80	80
Ohio	86	140	96	103	67	97	90	84	89	84	89	89
Michigan	83	150	94	95	88	94	90	51	86	51	86	86
Minnesota	81	140	90	85	125	91	88	118	93	118	93	93
Nebraska	86	28	85	74	1/	74	95	70	94	70	94	94
Virginia	50	64	60	50	80	67	69	81	75	81	75	75
So. Carolina	83	40	70	73	142	91	79	77	78	77	78	78
Washington	91	71	85	113	84	104	108	93	104	93	104	104
Oregon	69	83	70	76	127	77	88	77	88	77	88	88
California	90	39	81	98	62	95	90	82	89	82	89	89
Others 2/	91	79	90	88	100	89	96	98	96	98	96	96
TOTAL	84	72	81	87	90	88	89	87	89	87	89	89

1/None reported for week of April 25, 1953.

2/Missouri, Iowa, Texas, and Kentucky.